

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

selecting, by a software grid establishment component (GEC) executing on a computer processor, from a plurality of nodes, a set of grid nodes having a media access control port accessible by the software GEC; and

establishing, by the software GEC executing on the computer processor without user intervention, [[the]] a resource grid, wherein establishing comprises:

issuing, via the media access control port, a command to each of the grid nodes in the set of grid nodes to perform a network reboot, wherein the set of grid nodes performs the network reboot using an operating system image provided by the software GEC, and wherein the operating system image comprises an operating system and a grid facilitation agent;

configuring, using the grid facilitation agent, each grid node in the set of grid nodes to enable that grid node to participate as part of the resource grid, wherein configuring the grid node to enable that grid node to participate as part of the resource grid comprises:

deploying a grid participation module to the grid facilitation agent operating on the grid node,

instructing the grid facilitation agent to run the grid participation module on the grid node to enable the grid node to participate as part of the resource grid,

wherein the grid participation module corresponding to a grid master comprises instructions for selecting a slave node to process a resource request and instructions for forwarding the resource request to the slave node, and

wherein the grid participation module corresponding to the slave node comprises instructions for receiving the resource request from

the grid master and instructions for processing the resource request,  
deploying an application for processing the resource request to the grid node when the grid node is the slave node, and  
instructing the grid facilitation agent to run the application when the grid node is the slave node;  
establishing the grid master to manage access to [[the]] resources provided by the set of grid nodes, such that the resource grid formed by the set of grid nodes behaves as a single pool of resources accessible through the grid master;  
configuring the grid master with an identity of each slave node; and  
configuring each slave node with an identity of the grid master.

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11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the grid master executes the software GEC.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the grid master comprises:  
establishing at least one of the grid nodes in the set of grid nodes as the [[a]] grid master.
14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus communicatively coupled to a plurality of nodes, the apparatus comprising:
- a mechanism for selecting from the plurality of nodes, a set of grid nodes having a media access control port accessible by [[the]] a software GEC; and
  - a mechanism for establishing, without user intervention, [[the]] a resource grid, wherein the mechanism for establishing the resource grid comprises:
    - a mechanism for issuing, via the media access control port, a command to each of the grid nodes in the set of grid nodes to perform a network reboot, wherein the set of grid nodes performs the network reboot using an operating system image provided by the software GEC, and wherein the operating system image comprises an operating system and a grid facilitation agent;
    - a mechanism for configuring, using the grid facilitation agent, each grid node in the set of grid nodes to enable that grid node to participate as part of the resource grid, wherein the mechanism for configuring the grid node comprises:
      - a mechanism for deploying a grid participation module to the grid facilitation agent operating on the grid node,
      - a mechanism for instructing the grid facilitation agent to run the grid participation module on the grid node to enable to grid node to participate as part of the resource grid,
    - wherein the grid participation module corresponding to a grid master comprises instructions for selecting a slave node to process a resource request and instructions for forwarding the resource request to the slave node, and
    - wherein the grid participation module corresponding to the slave node comprises instructions for receiving the resource request from the grid master and instructions for processing the resource request,

a mechanism for deploying an application for processing the resource request to the grid node when the grid node is the slave node, and

a mechanism for instructing the grid facilitation agent to run the application when the grid node is the slave node;

a mechanism for establishing the grid master to manage access to [[the]] resources provided by the set of grid nodes, such that the resource grid formed by the set of grid nodes behaves as a single pool of resources accessible through the grid master;

a mechanism for configuring the grid master with an identity of each slave node; and

a mechanism for configuring each slave node with an identity of the grid master.

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23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the grid master executes the mechanism for establishing the resource grid.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the mechanism for establishing the grid master comprises:

a mechanism for establishing at least one of the grid nodes in the set of grid nodes as the grid master.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~storage~~ readable storage medium, comprising instructions for causing one or more processors to:

select, from a plurality of nodes, a set of grid nodes having a media access control port accessible by ~~[[the]]~~ a software GEC; and

establish, without user intervention, ~~[[the]]~~ a resource grid, wherein establish comprises:

issuing, via the media access control port, a command to each of the grid nodes in the set of grid nodes to perform a network reboot, wherein the set of grid nodes performs the network reboot using an operating system image provided by the software GEC, and wherein the operating system image comprises an operating system and a grid facilitation agent;

configuring, using the grid facilitation agent, each grid node in the set of grid nodes to enable that grid node to participate as part of the resource grid, wherein the configuring the grid node to enable that grid node to participate as part of the resource grid comprises:

deploying a grid participation module to the grid facilitation agent operating on the grid node,

instructing the grid facilitation agent to run the grid participation module on the grid node to enable the grid node to participate as part of the resource grid,

wherein the grid participation module corresponding to a grid master comprises instructions for selecting a slave node to process a resource request and instructions for forwarding the resource request to the slave node, and

wherein the grid participation module corresponding to the slave node comprises instructions for receiving the resource request from

the grid master and instructions for processing the resource request,  
deploying an application for processing the resource request to the grid node when the grid node is the slave node, and  
instructing the grid facilitation agent to run the application when the grid node is the slave node;  
establishing the grid master to manage access to [[the]] resources provided by the set of grid nodes, such that the resource grid formed by the set of grid nodes behaves as a single pool of resources accessible through the grid master;  
configuring the grid master with an identity of each slave node; and  
configuring each slave node with an identity of the grid master.

28. (Canceled)

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36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the grid master establishes the resource grid.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the establishing the grid master comprises:

establish at least one of the grid nodes in the set of grid nodes as [[a]] the grid master.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of grid nodes comprises only a portion of the plurality of grid nodes having a media access control port accessible by the software GEC.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the set of grid nodes comprises only a portion of the plurality of grid nodes having a media access control port accessible by the software GEC.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the set of grid nodes comprises only a portion of the plurality of grid nodes having a media access control port accessible by the software GEC.